

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 01733 041320Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 /017 W
-----041327Z 051494 /53
R 040940Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 211

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1733

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR M - MOOSE AND DG: LAISE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP APER AMGT
SUBJECT: CUTS IN POST STAFFING

REF: STATE (A) 060288, (B) STATE 068074, (C) THE HAGUE 1683,
(D) THE HAGUE 626

1. I AM SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT PROSPECTIVE SITUATION
IN COMMERCIAL SECTION. APPARENTLY FSO-6 POSITION
CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY J. HOLZMAN IS TO BE ABOLISHED
UPON HIS DEPARTURE, LEAVING COMMERCIAL SECTION WITH
COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AND FSR-7. BOTH HARTMAN IN EUR
AND KATZ IN EB HAVE ADVISED ME THAT THE QUESTION OF
UPGRADING THIS COMMERCIAL POSITION TO THE FSO 4 LEVEL
IS UNDER CONSIDERATION WITH A VIEW TO MAKING IT
POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE US WITH A COMPETENT COMMERCIAL
OFFICER WHO CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT THE COMMERCIAL
COUNSELOR. I UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
SUPPORTS THIS CHANGE AS WELL. IT IS ALSO RELEVANT
THAT IN TWO MOST RECENT INSPECTIONS IT HAS BEEN
STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE SECOND COMMERCIAL
POSITION SHOULD BE UPGRADED TO FSO 4.

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2. BECAUSE OF THIS BACKGROUND I AM AT A LOSS TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT SEEMS NOW TO BE HAPPENING. ACCORDING
TO PERSONNEL CABLES WE HAVE RECEIVED FSO 6 BINDENAGEL
HAS NOW BEEN ASSIGNED TO REPLACE OUR PRESENT COMMERCIAL
TRAINEE, A FRS 7. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT BINDENAGEL IS
A GOOD JUNIOR OFFICER, AND WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO
HAVE HIM, PROVIDED WE ALSO HAD A FSO 4 POSITION

IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTION. OUR PROBLEM IS THAT OUR COUNTRY COMMERCIAL PROGRAM IS DIRECTED FROM THE HAGUE AND, IN ABSENCE OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, THE SECOND OFFICER OCARRIES ON. THE COMMERCIAL OFFICERS IN ROTTERDAM AND AMSTERDAM ARE BOTH AT THE 4 LEVEL WHICH COULD MAKE FOR AWKWARD SITUATION. PROBLEM IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT IT SEEMS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT PRESENT COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR WILL BE LEAVING POST AT END OF YEAR. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT HIS REPLACEMENT AND JUNIOR OFFICER WOULD BOTH ARRIVE HERE AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH COULD PRODUCE A DETERIORATION IN OUR ACTIVE COMMERCIAL PROGRAM.

3. I AM ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT PROSPECTIVE DEPT OF COMMRCE REACTION TO DOWNGRADING IN POST OF SUCH PRIME COMMERCIAL INTEREST. IT WOULD BE ALTOGETHER UNDERSTANDABLE FOR COMMERCE IN THSE CIRCUMSTANCES TO ASSERT DATE DEPARTMENT IS FAILING TO GIVE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT TO COMMERCIAL PROGRAM.

4. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING IN DEPARTMENT ABOUT ROLE OF ROTTERDAM. IT HAS SINGLE COMMERCIAL OFFICER WHO IS IN HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT ABROAD AND REQUIRES EXTENSIVE SUPERVISION. ALL OF HIS ASSISGNMENTS COME FROM THE EMBASSY. SAME SITUATION APPLIES IN AMSTERDAM EXCEPT THAT COMMERCIAL OFFICER IS EXPERIENCED.

5. IN OUR ANNUAL ASSESSMENT AND, PARTICULARLY PARTS II AND III, I SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL AGAINST
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BACKGROUND OF OUR EXTENSIVE COMMERCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS HERE WHY EMBASSY COMMERCIAL STAFF, IF IT IS TO BE CUT TO TWO OFFICERS, SHOULD CONSIST OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR PLUS FSO 4. CONSEQUENTLY I SHOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT THIS MATTER BE URGENTLY REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN FORMER MESSAGE (THE HAGUE 626, STADIS).
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

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